

REMARKS

The Examiner's action dated June 14, 2006, has been received, and its contents carefully noted.

In order to advance prosecution, submitted herewith is a new abstract in single paragraph form.

The rejection presented in Section 4 of the action is traversed for the reason that the novel snow gliding board defined in the rejected claims, and particularly in parent claim 1, is not disclosed in, or suggested by, the applied reference.

Before discussing the merits of the rejection, it is believed in order to point out, in response to the Examiner Note appearing on page 3 of the action, that the bosses of a board according to the present invention do not have only a decorative function. They also perform a protective function, which makes the invention eligible for utility patent protection. Moreover, as disclosed in the present specification, for example in the paragraph extending between pages 4 and 5, the bosses perform a reinforcing function.

The snow gliding board according to the present invention, and as defined in application claim 1, includes an outer face formed by a decorative and protective upper

assembly covered with at least one varnish film on at least its outer surface, the varnish film forming a set of bosses protruding from the outer face of the board.

The applied reference, Pichler, is a design patent that contains no disclosure of the structural elements of the skis illustrated therein. In particular, this reference does not disclose a protective assembly that is covered with at least one varnish film. It follows that the reference does not disclose a varnish film that forms a set of bosses.

The rejection appears to be based on the Examiner's opinion that the use of a transparent layer of film is "well known in the art". Although it may be true that varnish films have been employed for various purposes in industry, the examiner has cited no prior art evidence of the use of varnish films on the upper surface of a snow gliding board or, more particularly, the use of a varnish film to form a set of bosses protruding from the upper surface of a snow gliding board. It should be readily apparent from the disclosure in the present application of the method of forming a board according to the invention, that the application of a transparent layer of film would not automatically result in the formation of a set of bosses, as defined in claim 1.

It is submitted that the explanation of the rejection does not include a citation of any prior art evidence or any reasoned explanation in support of the bare conclusion that it would be obvious to modify the ski disclosed in the applied reference to include a varnish film that forms a set of bosses protruding from the outer face of the board. In the absence of such evidence or explanation, the prior art rejection presented in Section 4 of the action cannot be maintained.

Accordingly, it is requested that the prior art rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

In addition, a new dependent claim has been added to further specify that the decorative and protective assembly and the at least one varnish film comprise means for reinforcing the outer face of the board. Support for this recitation will be found in the specification in the paragraph extending between pages 4 and 5.

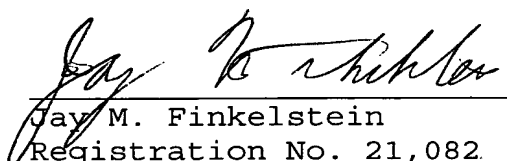
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In view of the foregoing, it is requested that the prior art rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn, that the claims under examination be allowed and that the application be found in allowable condition.

If the above amendment should not now place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to call undersigned counsel to resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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